

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 104 – City Hall

August 18, 2008

3:00 P.M.

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- 1) Presentation of T.H. 63 North Access Management Plan (attachment)

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- 2) Fire Departmental Review (attachment)

- 3) A closed meeting to receive a communication from, and to have a discussion with, the City's retained legal counsel and the City Attorney regarding the status of the pending litigation known as SJC Properties LLC, et al. v. City of Rochester, (Court File Numbers 55-C6-05-1988, 55-C6-05-1991; 55-C8-05-1992; 55-C1-05-1994; 55-C3-05-1995; 55-C5-05-1996; 55-C7-05-1997) Olmsted County District Court. This case involves the appeal of special assessments for properties owned by Frank Kottschade located west of Hwy 63 between 40th and 48th Streets SW. The closed meeting will occur pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.05, subd. 3(b).

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ROCHESTER - OLMSTED COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rochester City Council Committee of the Whole

FROM: Charles Reiter
Senior Transportation Planner

DATE: August 14, 2008

RE: Highway 63 North / Hadley Creek Access Management Plan

Staff will present preliminary findings from North Highway 63 Access Management Study being completed by ROCOG staff in conjunction with planning for the 55th St North Extension and future upgrading of Highway 63 North. It is anticipated a final report and recommendation will be brought to the Council in the fall for adoption.

Overview

During the last year a confluence of events has brought about the need to look at planning for future access management along the TH 63 North corridor between 37th St and 48th St NE. Key factors driving the need for this study include Olmsted County and MNDOT being advised by FHWA to include planning for the future upgrading of TH 63 from north of 37th St through the 48th St intersection as part of the planning and design work of the proposed 55th St extension due to the anticipated impact of traffic from the extension on TH 63. Additionally, a number of development projects have been recently proposed or approved in the Hadley Valley area that have highlighted various access issues and the need for a coordinated local road and highway access plan to serve properties in the area.

Staff began work on an Access Management Study last spring in consultation with Transportation Technical Advisory Committee of ROCOG. The study area is highlighted on the next page.

A preliminary study report has been prepared that looks at five alternative plans for the corridor. Of those, three are recommended for further evaluation and consideration during an upcoming public comment period, after which TTAC will consider the comments received and prepare a final recommendation to the ROCOG and the City Council. As part of the public comment period, a first Public Informational Meeting is being conducted on Tuesday, August 19th for property owners in the area at the offices of Rochester Public Utilities beginning at 5:00 PM


At the COW meeting on Monday staff will review the preliminary study report findings and discuss the schedule for the project culminating with presentation of the final study report to the Council, which is anticipated to occur in November.

North 63 / Hadley Valley Access Management Study Study Area





MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 7, 2008
TO: Steven Kvenvold
FROM: Greg Martin 
SUBJECT: Request for Additional Staffing

Rochester Fire is in need of an additional engine company for emergency response operations. Typically, this would require the hiring of 12 new personnel. Optimal staffing for an engine or truck company is four personnel. Minimum staffing for an engine or truck company is three. However, by hiring three new firefighters and reallocating existing staff, we will be able to staff an additional engine company at the minimum staffing level.

A new staffed engine company will provide:

- Improvement in our operational capability by increasing the number of firefighters responding to a reported structure fire. Last year, we had approximately 100 reported structure fires. The majority of these necessitated the calling of a "second alarm" in order to bring enough personnel on scene to effectively combat the fire. A consequence of calling a second alarm is that only one engine remains available in the city. This effectively leaves the city without adequate fire and emergency medical coverage until such time as call back personnel can arrive. An additional in-service engine company would allow us to limit the number of second alarms. This would be accomplished by sending an additional engine to a reported structure fire at the time of dispatch and still leave several units available for subsequent fire and medical calls.
- Reduced overall response time. Approximately 7 to 10% of the time, a back up or second due engine had to respond to an emergency in the primary stations area because the primary or first due engine was already on an emergency incident.
- Improvement to our training capability by allowing more crews the ability to train together and still maintain appropriate coverage in the city. This will become increasingly critical in the near future as the new regional training facility is constructed.
- Additional on duty staff to strengthen code enforcement and public education programs.
- A very cost effective way to add additional operational capability. A full minimum complement of staffing (12) plus the required promotions for motor operators and captains would cost \$604,906.80 in salary on an annual basis (2009 rates). The ongoing cost in 2009 salary dollars is approximately \$151, 267.

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CITY OF ROCHESTER, MN

NEW POSITION / ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE REQUEST FORM
Budget for Fiscal Year 2009

Department FIRE

Division _____

Date _____

Approval & Routing:

1. Requesting Dept Head G.K. MARTIN
2. Human Resources Review _____
3. Administrator's Approval _____

X New Position 12.01.09

X Additional Employee

Expected Start Date 10.1.09

Title and Description of Requested Position or Employee: FIREFIGHTER (3 Additional)
Captain (3 New)
Motor Operator (3 New)

Full-time Equivalent for Each Position or Employee Requested – (Full-time = 1.0, Half-time = .5) - 1 FTE

Number of Positions Requested: 3 New Full-time Firefighters. This would also result in the promotion of three existing personnel to Motor Operator and three existing personnel to Captain. Part-time _____

Is Position Covered by a Bargaining Group? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Group: IAFF Local # 520

Justification (Required):

Rochester Fire is in need of an additional engine company for emergency response operations. Typically, this would require the hiring of 12 new personnel. Optimal staffing for an engine or truck company is four personnel. Minimum staffing for a engine or truck company is 3. However, by hiring three new firefighters and reallocating existing staff, we will be able to staff an additional engine company at the minimum staffing level.

A new staffed engine company will provide:

1. Increased operational capability by increasing the number of firefighters responding to a reported structure fire.
2. It will reduce overall response time. Approximately 7 to 10% of the time, a back up or second due engine had to respond to an emergency in the primary stations area because the primary or first due engine was already on an emergency incident.
3. This will improve our training capability by allowing more crews the ability to train together and still maintain appropriate coverage in the city. This will become increasingly critical in the near future as the new regional training facility is constructed.
4. Provide additional on duty staff to strengthen code enforcement and public education programs.
5. This is very cost effective way to add additional operational capability. A full minimum complement of staffing (12) plus the required promotions for motor operators and captains would cost \$604,906.80 in salary on an annual basis (2009 rates)

Funding Source(s) - Taxes, Dept Revenues, Grant:

General Fund Revenue. We will also apply for a SAFER grant but the position request is not contingent on grant funds.

Estimated Salary for New Positions Only:

Salary Amount Only: \$38,434.75

1. New Firefighters (3) FTE's = \$35, 922.42 (Hire date of 10.01.09)

First year cost would be approximately \$35,922.42 because of the 10.01.09 start date. ($\$143,689.71 / 12 = \$11,974.14$)

$\$11,974.14 \times 3 = \$35,922.42$

2. Promotion of 3 Motor Operators from existing personnel (Promotion date of 12.01.09) = \$ 797.89
3. Promotion of 3 Captains from existing personnel (Promotion date of 12.01.09) = \$1714.44

Note:\ Ongoing annual salary cost at the 2009 wage rate for this additional engine company=\$173,837.67

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